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boil it with their fiſh, and uſe the leaves as tea; but the greateſt uſe is made of its pith, which, after having ſplit the ſtalks, they ſcrape out with ſhells, and, tied up in bundles, dry it in the ſun. It is then very pleaſant, and in taſte reſembles dried *Perſian* cucumbers. The *Kamtſchadales* uſe it in ſeveral diſhes, and ſerve it up green as a deſert. The kipri boiled gives a thick ſweet wort, that makes the beſt quaſſe * imaginable: it alſo affords them a very ſtrong vinegar, if to ſix pounds of the kipri they add a pound of the ſweet herb of ſphondilium, and ferment it in the uſual way: they get a great deal more brandy, when they uſe the infuſion of the kipri, inſtead of water, to prepare the ſweet herb for diſtillation.

They cure the navels of their children with this herb, chewing it, and laying it upon the part. They grind the roots and ſtalks, and uſe them inſtead of green tea, to which the flavour has ſome reſemblance. The ſame uſe the *Kuriles* make of another ſhrub †, which has flowers like the ſtrawberry, only yellow, and produces no berries. This is called *Kurilſkoy* tea, and has great virtue in fluxes and gripes.

The wild garlick ‖ is not only uſeful in the kitchen, but alſo in medicine. Both the *Ruſſians* and *Kamtſchadales* gather great quantities, which they cut and dry in the ſun for their winter proviſion; at which time boiling it in water they ferment it a little, and uſe it as an herb ſoup, which they call *ſhami*. They eſteem the wild garlick ſo efficacious a remedy againſt the ſcurvy, that they think themſelves in no danger ſo ſoon as it begins to

* Quaſſe is a *Ruſſian* drink made of rye-malt, and flower, and very little fermented. Sometimes they add mint to it, and it makes no diſagreeable drink.

† Potentilla caule fruticoſa. LINN. Cliff.

‖ Allium foliis radicalibus petiolatis floribus umbellatis. GMEL. flor. Sib. tom. 1. p. 49.

ſhew

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The women, as was mentioned above, who desire to have children, for this purpose eat spiders. Some child-bed women, that they may the sooner conceive again, eat the navel-string of the child. There are others who have as great averſion to having children, and procure abortions by different poisonous medicines, in which they are assisted by some knowing old women; but this can never be done, as it is well known, but at the hazard of their own lives. There are others, who are such unnatural wretches as to destroy their children when they are born, or throw them alive to the dogs. They use likewise several herbs and different conjurations to prevent conception. Their superstition, also, is sometimes the occasion of great barbarity; for when a woman bears twins, one of them at least must be destroyed, and so must a child born in very stormy weather; though the last can be averted by some conjurations. After the birth, the women, to recover their strength, make use of fish broth, made with an herb which they call *hale*; and then in a few days return to their ordinary diet.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of their DISEASES *and* REMEDIES.

THE principal diseases in *Kamtschatka* are the scurvy, boils, palsy, cancer, jaundice, and the venereal distemper. These diseases they think are inflicted upon them by the spirits that inhabit some particular groves, if ignorantly they happen to cut any of them down. Their principal medicines consist in charms and conjurations, but at the same time they do not neglect the use of herbs and roots. For the scurvy they use a certain